

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted under 37 CRF §1.116 to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the proposed amendment.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 9 and 22 are allowable after amendment to include limitations of their base and any intervening claims. Claims 1-7 and 10-21 stand rejected. Applicants cancel claim 1, and amend claims 2-7, 10-17 and 19. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-22 will be pending, and are presented for reconsideration. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by the amendments, and that claims 2-22 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Without acquiescing to any pending rejections of the claims, claim 1 is canceled, and claims 2-6, 8-17, 19 and 22 are amended to expedite prosecution of the application. Claims 8, 9 and 22 are each amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1, from which they depend. Claims 2-6, 10-17 and 19, which originally depended from claim 1, are amended to now depend from allowable claim 22. Claim 7 is amended to correct dependency. Accordingly, Applicants submit no new matter is introduced by the above amendments.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 14-16 and 19-21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 14-16 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,528,367 to Iams ("Iams.") Claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 3-6, 10, 14-16 and 19, which each previously depended directly from claim 1, have been amended so that each now depends directly from allowable claim 22.

Because claim 22 is patentable over Iams, claims 3-7, 10, 14-16 and 19-21, which each, as amended, depend directly or indirectly from claim 22, also are patentable over Iams. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection

of claims 3-7, 10, 14-16 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 2 and 11-13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iams. Claims 2 and 11-13, which each previously depended directly from claim 1, have been amended so that each now depends directly from allowable claim 22.

Because claim 22 is patentable over Iams, amended claims 2 and 11-13, which each depend directly from claim 22, also are patentable over Iams. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iams be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 17 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

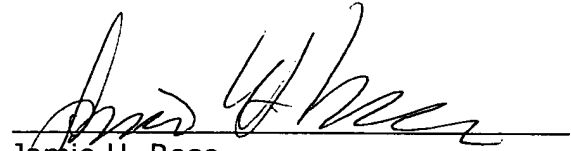
Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iams in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,947,540 to Komachi ("Komachi.") Claim 17, which previously depended directly from claim 1, has been amended to depend directly from allowable claim 22.

Because claim 22 is patentable over Iams in view of Komachi, amended claims 17 and 18, which each depend directly or indirectly from claim 22, also are patentable over Iams in view of Komachi. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iams in view of Komachi be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment, and request that the objection to claims 8, 9 and 22 and the rejection of claims 2-7 and 10-21, as amended, be reconsidered and withdrawn, with claims 2-22 proceeding to issue. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, if the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation could be helpful in expediting prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie H. Rose", is written over a horizontal line.

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